

# **Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary**

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**

**Issued: 0800 CST**

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**National Weather Service**

***Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX***



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## Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Little change during past month. Extreme to exceptional drought confined mainly to western quarter of state and panhandle.
- New Mexico** Conditions continue to deteriorate. Tenfold increase in amount of state in exceptional drought since last month.
- Texas** Little overall change. Minor improvements in deep south TX balanced by worsening drought in panhandle.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

May 14, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### Oklahoma

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	17.40	82.60	67.93	52.78	32.60	9.53	
Last Week (05/07/2013 map)	17.32	82.68	67.93	52.91	32.85	8.63	
3 Months Ago (02/12/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.00	39.58	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.09	
One Year Ago (05/08/2012 map)	75.76	24.24	14.15	9.78	3.27	0.00	

#### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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## Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico**: 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, at only 11% of capacity. Spring and summer stream flow forecasts of less than 50% of normal statewide.
- Texas**: 73% of winter wheat in poor to very poor condition, worst in the USA. Will likely enter the summer of 2013 with the least stored water in at least 25 years. Statewide reservoir capacity currently at 66%, or 12% less than same time in 2012.
- Rio Grande**: Many agricultural water districts, which normally provide conveyance for municipal water with their irrigation water, are reporting shortages.
- Oklahoma**: 47% of winter wheat in poor to very poor condition.

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### New Mexico

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	0.00	100.00	99.04	97.63	81.68	44.14	
Last Week (05/07/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	99.04	97.75	81.82	39.89	
3 Months Ago (02/12/2013 map)	0.20	99.80	98.45	89.85	25.36	0.97	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66	
One Year Ago (05/08/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	96.20	68.67	27.26	3.49	

#### Intensity:



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### Texas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	2.84	97.16	90.55	68.71	36.09	12.05	
Last Week (05/07/2013 map)	1.45	98.55	92.13	72.82	40.58	12.88	
3 Months Ago (02/12/2013 map)	10.84	89.16	75.62	50.05	24.83	7.79	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18	
One Year Ago (05/08/2012 map)	17.80	82.20	65.93	48.16	23.57	7.38	

#### Intensity:



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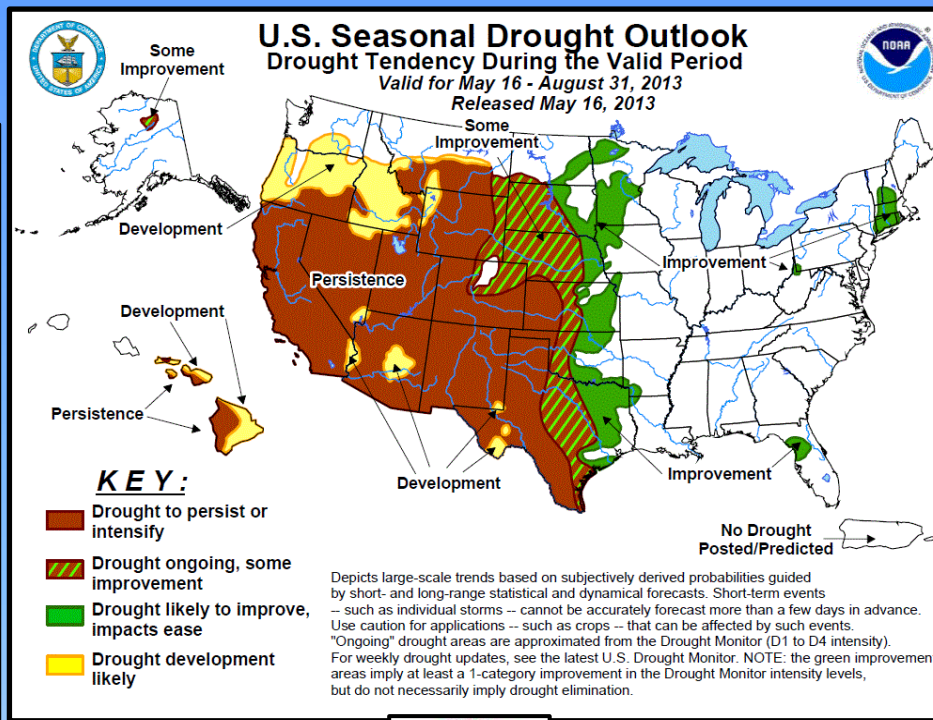


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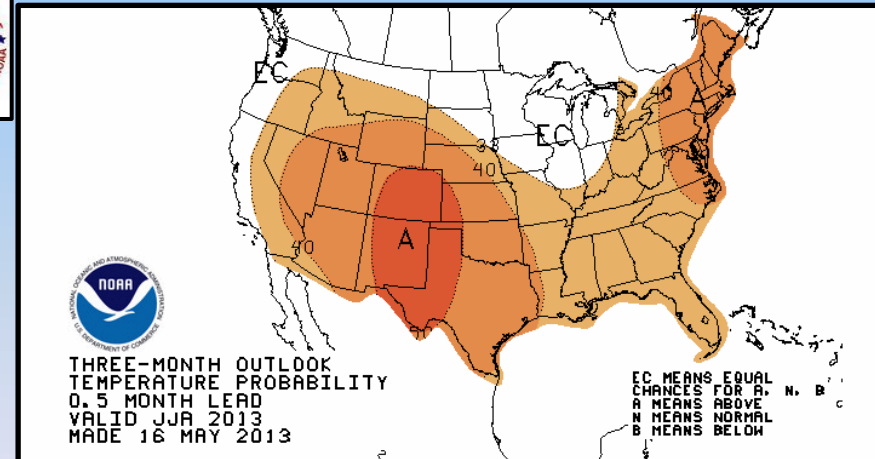
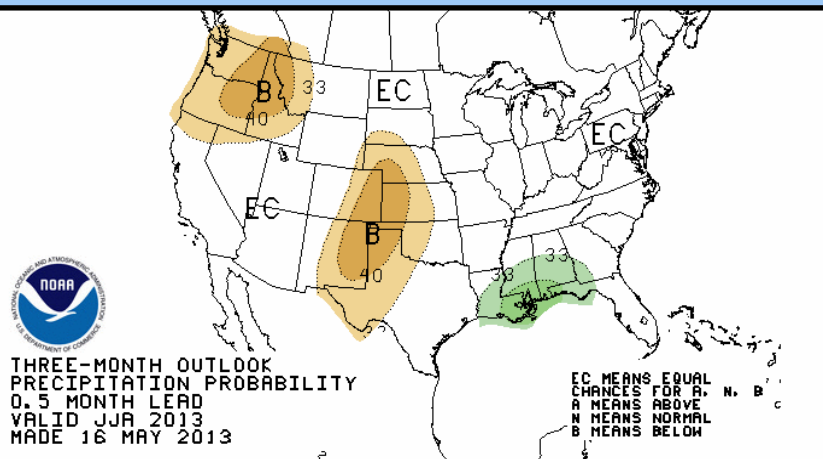
## 3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Below Normal Precipitation expected for NM and western TX/western OK.
- Highest Confidence for Below Normal Precipitation from eastern NM to the TX/OK panhandles.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for the remainder of TX and OK.



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the southern plains during JJA (June/July/August). Highest confidence of this in NM and western TX.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir levels.



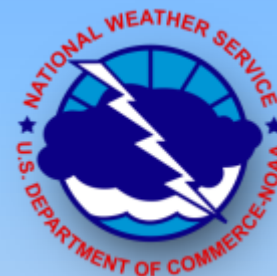
## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Some improvement in drought conditions through August from central and eastern Oklahoma into northeast and southeast Texas.
- Drought expected to persist or intensify through August for all of New Mexico, south and western Texas, and the TX/OK panhandles.

**This information is also available on the  
Southern Plains section of the drought.gov web portal**

**<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>**

**Information provided by:  
National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
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